

MINUTES



Homma PAC Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Virtual - Meeting link will be shared on the Homma website and Homma PAC Community Facebook group

In attendance (10): Derek Cherry (Admin); Ginny Lee (Admin); Jarrod Connolly; Miranda Duffy; Jen Tham; Corrine Haer; Penny Leggo; Tina; Madeleine; Anna Reithmeier.

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
6:30 to 6:45 PM	<p>Update from the PAC Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and land acknowledgement• Approval of minutes from January 2024 meeting <p>Corrine approved. Penny seconded the approval of the January minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of agenda• Approval of this list of items to become our agenda <p>Miranda approved. Jen seconded the agenda</p>	Jarrod Connolly
6:45 to 7:05 PM	<p>Update from the Homma School Admin Team. The report is attached at the end of the minutes.</p> <p>Admin report is in RED. Comments/questions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library Learning Commons Update <p>Derek: We have been eagerly waiting the start date for construction on the Library Learning Commons project. Due to staff shortages, it looks like the work will begin during Spring Break. We have met with the carpenters and district maintenance staff to discuss and finalize plans. We are excited about this work beginning shortly.</p> <p>Derek: The original furniture order went in, but the original supplier messed up the costing and would not honor the original quote so we will go with another company and want to place the new order as soon as possible.</p> <p>Miranda asked: Were you able to order all the items we originally planned to? Derek answered: Yes but may need to scale back the order slightly.</p> <p>Jen typed in chat: Just wanted to ask for the library commons furniture if the cost increased with this new supplier?</p> <p>Derek answered: Original supplier quoted \$15,000-\$16,000 but after they messed up, the new quote was \$27,000. Derek said that they may need to scale back the order slightly with the new supplier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basketball at Homma	Derek Cherry Ginny Lee

The McMath feeder basketball tournament will occur on March 6th and 7th this year. Our teams are working hard to get ready for this exciting event. Schedule information will be coming out shortly. Once again, we want to thank the coaches for their time and also thank the parent drivers who shuttled students back and forth to games.

- EASE parent workshop

We had a small turnout for the EASE Parent Workshop that was held on January 30th in the library. For the families that did attend, we heard that the information was useful especially when helping students with everyday anxiety. At Homma, staff have been working with students, to help them learn strategies to help them when they experience anxiety. As we learned during the workshop that some anxiety is normal and that it is good for students to experience it so that they can develop their own set of coping strategies. For more information and some great resources, please go to the website link below.

<https://healthymindsbc.gov.bc.ca/resources/ease-at-home-4-7-collection/>

Derek: Thanks to Ginny and Connie who organized this. Ginny said they are going to try to put on another workshop dealing with anger. Derek asked if there were any other topics that Connie and the Administration team could put on for future parent workshops?

- Grab and Go Fridge

You may have heard your child talking about the Grab and Go fridge at Homma. To show care for others in our community, we have a fridge located in the front of the school for students to access food throughout the day. The fridge and food have been provided through funding from the Ministry of Education. We want to thank the Richmond Firefighters for dropping off the food. So far, the students have done an amazing job accessing the fridge when they need a snack and not when they want one, which is something that we have talked to them about. As the program continues to evolve, we hope that the fridge takes away the stigma around food security and provides all our students with the food needed to get through our day.

Derek: Fridge currently stocked with hard boiled eggs, apples, granola bars and fruit bars. We want to make sure to identify needs vs wants via the traffic light system.

Teachers taught about food security as we want to limit the stigma around food security. So far, the fridge is well stocked, and kids are respecting the traffic light system. Lots of positive feedback from parents verbally and on the chat.

Jen asked in chat: Is funding secured for each school year via the Ministry? If we go over budget, will there be a call out for donations? Derek answered: Funding is secured this year, but if we go over budget, he will ask PAC for money to help fund this.

- Care for Place, Others and Self

Care for Self, Care for Others, Care for Place

At Homma we have been discussing the importance of having common language in the school around how we are with each other. Homma has a strong culture of care and community, and we want to continue to build on this. By having a common language students know what is expected of them and we will also be able to highlight the great things that go on in the school.

Prior to Covid, there was a lot of work that went into helping students learn the H.A.W.K.S acronym which stands for helpful, accountable, we not me, kind and safe. In surveying students and staff we have learned that this acronym is no longer part of the culture of the school and there is a general feeling that it is time to shift the common language to something that is more inclusive.

Staff have expressed interest in moving to the use of Care for Self, Care for Others and Care for Place. This language would be more open and provide greater flexibility for learning. It also aligns with the First People Principles of Learning and district strategic plan priority 2 – Equity and Inclusion. At a recent assembly we spent time working with our students to learn about care for place. Students shared many examples of how they could care for Homma, Steveston, Richmond and planet Earth. We will continue to build this common language with our students and staff and will involve Homma families in the learning. You will start to hear students sharing this common language with you as they learn more about it.

- Learning Updates (Conferences)

A lot of classes are going to do student led conferences.

Term 2 – Written Updates and Conferences

Next week students will be dismissed early, at 1:45 pm on Wednesday and Thursday for conferences. During these conferences students can expect an update on how their child is doing in numeracy, literacy, and social/emotional learning. For some conferences these updates will be provided by the students who will be leading their conference.

- Written Updates (Report Cards).

This term, written updates will be provided on April 25th. As mentioned previously, paper copies of written updates will not be provided for term two. We recommend families log onto their MyEd account so that they are familiar with how to access their child's report card on-line. There will be advanced communication about how to access the report card on-line. Currently this information can be found on the school website and in the WAAG. We will also send home the information when the report cards are published.

Derek: Make sure to download your report card within the 4 week window after it is available. MyEd can only hold onto 1 report card at a time. Please print a copy of the report card.

- Ocean Wise Sea Dome

	<p>Recently, Ms. Regan invited the Ocean Wise Sea Dome to Homma, which is an immersive ocean adventure that brings marine magic to communities everywhere. The Sea Dome is a portable, inflatable six-metre dome that projects 360-degree 4K cinematic footage showing connections between ocean health, climate change, and daily life. The primary students that work with Ms. Regan in the garden were able to see the Arctic to view changes in sea ice, to tropical reefs to assess impacts of ocean acidification, and to BC's rivers to learn how salmon habitats can be preserved. A huge thank you to Ms. Regan!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Bingo Night A huge thank you to the PAC for a fun community event! It was very well attended and a great opportunity for families to come together. Ginny thanked PAC for Bingo night, which was fun and well attended. • Lion Dance Recently, Ms. Yau and Mr. Cherry helped organize some dancers to come and perform the Lion Dance for our students in anticipation of Lunar New Year. Overall, the students' engagement was high, and the teachers reported that their students really enjoyed the presentation. The students especially enjoyed the interaction at the end with the Lion Dancers, as they allowed the students and staff to touch the costumes as they paraded along the sides of the gym, and the live drumming was also a hit! Ginny said the staff and student feedback about the Lion Dance Fri Feb 9th was positive. • History of Motown We had the privilege to welcome Krystle Dos Santos and her 4-piece band, who took us back in time to the peak of Motown Music from the late 1950s to 1980s. Her medleys of hits by The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, the Temptations and the Jackson 5 had us singing and dancing along. The students learned interesting facts about these key artists and about the historical and significant impact that Motown music has had on contemporary soul music today. Ginny said the staff feedback about History of Motown (Tues Feb 13) was positive and in celebration of Black History month. Students and staff had a great time dancing/singing along. • Upcoming Parent night about Outdoor Ed This Thursday, February 22, at 6:00 pm we will be having a parent meeting to talk about our upcoming fall Outdoor Education trip to Camp Jubilee. We have booked Camp Jubilee from October 16 to 18, 2024. 	
7:05 to 7:20 PM	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget update At our last meeting Miranda shared that we were not successful in securing gaming grant for this year (~\$10,000). This continues to be true despite letters of appeal. 	Miranda Duffy

Gaming Account update:

The gaming grant carried over from last year was \$7,178. With input from Marcie, she suggested that we spend as much of the gaming fund as possible and Miranda was able to assign our Gaming account budget dollars down to \$28 remaining.

Operating Account Update:

The goal every year is to have enough in this fund that if we did no fundraising for a year, we could pay for our expenses for the next academic year with our current balance. This is the fund where most of the PAC spending comes from (For example Grade 7 yearbook, Fun Day, Online safety workshops, Mental health workshops etc.). If we raised no money at the spring fair, we will still have 7/8 of our yearly spending handled for the next school year.

Anna commented: We always have fundraisers like Hot Lunch so it is unlikely we will have \$0 income. Miranda agrees.

Miranda: We projected ~\$7,000 income from hot lunch, so this will cover a lot of our expenses for this year. We have raised \$1,438 so far this year.

Miranda: Bingo night made \$30, but the objective for the event was community building rather than fundraising.

Admin requests for help covering the cost of The Lion Dance and the History of Motown

- Lion Dance (\$1,575)
- The History of Motown (\$1,260)

Derek said that we will not be doing mental health, online safety workshops or parent education workshops in addition to the ones which have already been offered this year. The current budget had allotted ~\$3,500 for these activities. Many of these workshops were covered for free, or at low cost by the Ministry or other funding sources. Derek is asking instead for the PAC to cover the costs of the Lion Dance and History of Motown events which occurred in Feb.

Anna asked: What happens if PAC doesn't agree to pay for the Lion Dance or the History of Motown? Derek answered that it was paid for out of the general school account and that the administration could then use the funds for something else.

Anna asked what happens to the money in the general school account at the end of the year? Derek answered that if any

	<p>money was left on June 30th it would get rolled back to the district.</p> <p>Ginny asked about \$175 to cover the cost of the Maple Man as she couldn't see it in the budget? Miranda said it was missing and that we voted on supporting this in the November meeting. It will be added to the budget now.</p> <p>Ginny said that the gym equipment money has been spent in full.</p> <p>Anna commented that this budget was not shared with the school community prior to this meeting. Miranda said she discussed this with Barb and it was discussed that budget information is supposed to be shared every meeting. Anna commented that we should share where things are at with the gaming grant and what items of the budget we will be voting on for the next meeting. Jarrod suggested we will put it on the agenda to let people know what we will be voting for at the April Meeting. Miranda is very keen on trying to get more parent voices out to vote and comment on the budget in April.</p> <p>Derek suggested for the April meeting agenda to put out what we will be voting for to encourage more parent turn out.</p> <p>Derek is asking for a copy of the budget for the admin and office staff after the PAC meetings to be able to purchase things. Miranda agreed to send a copy to them.</p> <p>Miranda says the budget is a living document and gets updated almost daily. Miranda will add the missing line item for Maple Man (\$175) which had been voted on and approved at our November PAC meeting. She will also add line items for the Lion Dance and the History of Motown to the budget, to be voted on at the April meeting.</p> <p>Given that we only have 4 non-PAC Executive members in attendance, we did not feel comfortable voting on budget changes tonight even though we technically met quorum with 8 parents in attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions <p>No additional questions were asked.</p>	
<p>7:20 to 7:50 PM</p>	<p>PAC Planning and Participation Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bingo Night Debrief <p>Penny: Only 5 families did not show up and we did not sell as much concession as last year. Jarrod asked how many did not show up last year? Penny answered that last year some people</p>	<p>Corrine Haer Penny Leggo</p>

showed up at the door and she asked them to wait and was able to let everyone into the gym to make up for the no shows. This year no one showed up without tickets and as a result the gym was full, but not at capacity due to the no shows.

Penny: Volunteer check in went well, so did pizza hand out and concession was busy at the beginning of the night but not afterwards.

Penny stated that the maximum was roughly around 250 people. We were under capacity this year, but we don't think we could fit many more people in the gym due to table size.

Miranda is asking for a count of what is leftover from concession (drinks, chips etc.) and in what quantities so we have an idea of what we are carrying forward to future events. Penny agreed to this.

Jen asked if there were any complaints around a lack of tickets around Bingo night and about not being able to reserve tickets? Jarrod and Penny said there were no complaints about the tickets selling out this year.

- **Spring Event Discussion / Brainstorming**

Jarrod is asking about the Pinewood Derby?

Anna reached out to a couple of volunteer parents to try to build a new track, they will all go to inspect it around Mar 6. After the assessment, we will have a better idea about what is needed to proceed with building a new track versus repairing the old one.

Penny commented that historically derby cars needed to be ordered before Spring Break as they have been ordered previously from the States. Penny commented that Derby car vendors have increased their prices. Anna commented that Olivia Chan (K teacher) is still volunteering to pick up the Derby cars from Point Roberts if this is the vendor we want to order from. Jarrod wants to look into different Derby car vendors. Penny offered to look into the cost of Derby cars from Amazon.

Anna commented that there were very specific rules around Pinewood Derby cars meeting "regulation" weight, size etc and this was one of the reasons for the March deadline for ordering so that the cars could be weighed/measured. However, post Covid we did not have rules so kids could have up until the night before to finish their cars. Jarrod commented that if we could find a Canadian vendor that would be preferable.

	<p>Anna said that the parent who has the tools and has volunteered to be the main builder has a child who will be graduating Homma this year.</p> <p>Jen asked about other events we could host if we can't host the Pinewood Derby? Jen suggested movie night either in the gym or outside and was asking if anyone else had other ideas? Asked if May is still the date for an event?</p> <p>Derek answered that May is the date penciled in for an additional PAC event. June is too busy with all the year-end events.</p> <p>Derek commented that admin is open to a movie night but said that licensing can be challenging and expensive (~\$500), and the movie selection is limited. Derek commented that due to the licensing at old schools PAC would try to hold multiple movie events to make the cost of the license worthwhile.</p> <p>Ginny commented at her old schools Freezie days and Name that Tune family events were popular.</p>	
<p>7:50 to 8:00 PM</p>	<p>Other business and questions None.</p> <p>Motion to end the meeting from Anna; Penny Seconded.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8:01pm.</p>	<p>All</p>

Homma PAC Executive:

- Jarrod Connolly, Chair
- Corrine Haer, Vice-Chair
- Miranda Duffy, Treasurer
- Jennifer Tham, Secretary

Next Homma PAC Meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 6:30-8:00 pm